

Message Text

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ACTION PA-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 SCI-06 L-03 COME-00 USIA-15

EPA-04 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /081 W

----- 101201

R 281424Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5884

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, SENV, UK, EEC

SUBJECT: EXPO '74, SPOKANE

REF: LONDON 12861 AND LONDON 12543

1. AMBASSADOR CALLED ON FOREIGN SECRETARY SIR ALEC DOUGLAS-HOME NOVEMBER 27, ACCOMPANIED BY COMMISSIONER GENERAL HENDERSON AND ECONCOMMIN, AND DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY REVERSING HMG DECISION AGAINST PARTICIPATION IN SPOKANE EXPO '74. AMBASSADOR OUTLINED PRESENT SITUATION, STRESSING THAT FRANCE, GERMANY, JAPAN, SOVIET UNION, CANADA, AUSTRALIA, IRAN, MEXICO AND OTHERS HAVE DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE, WHILE BELGIUM, SPAIN, THE NETHERLANDS AND AUSTRIA APPEAR LIKELY TO FOLLOW. AMBASSADOR STRESSED THAT EXPO '74 IS ONLY INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION SCHEDULED IN THE UNITED STATES DURING THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DECADE OF THE 70S AND POINTED OUT THAT WIDE AND VARIED

BRITISH EXPERIENCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS WOULD OFFER MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR A BRITISH EXHIBIT, INCLUDING WORK OF NATIONAL TRUST IN CONSERVING LEGACY OF PAST AND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT SUCCESSES IN CLEANING UP AIR POLLUTION IN LONDON, OR IN RESTORING LAND WHICH HAS BEEN STRIP MINED FOR COAL TO FULL AGRICULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL USE. SUCH A UK EXHIBIT WOULD NOT ONLY MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL KNOWLEDGE, BUT WOULD ALSO HAVE AN IMPORTANT BENEFIT TO THE UK BY ENCOURAGING BOTH TOURISM AND INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT IN BRITAIN.

2. COMMISSIONER GENERAL HENDERSON POINTED OUT THAT INTERESTED COMPANIES SUCH AS BRITISH AIRWAYS OR ROLLS ROYCE HAD ALREADY SHOWN LIVELY INTEREST IN UK PARTICIPATION IN EXPO '74 SINCE THEY FELT IT WOULD BRING WIDER US UNDERSTANDING TO THE ADVANCES WHICH PARTICULAR BRITISH INDUSTRIES HAD MADE IN COPING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS, E.G. THE ROLLS ROYCE RB-211 ENGINE. HE POINTED OUT THAT IN THE NETHERLANDS REPRESENTATIVES OF PHILIPS COMPANY HAD OFFERED FUNDS FOR DUTCH GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION IN THE EUROPEAN PAVILION AT SPOKANE EXPO '74, AND SUGGESTED THAT LEADERS OF BRITISH INDUSTRY MIGHT SHOW SIMILAR ENTHUSIASM. HE STRESSED THAT THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST WAS A NEW AND BURGEONING AREA OF THE US AND THAT FIVE MILLION PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND EXPO '74. HE BELIEVED THE TELEVISION AUDIENCE WOULD EXCEED 100 MILLION VIEWERS WHO WOULD THUS GET A FAVORABLE IMAGE OF UK EFFORTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD.

3. SIR ALEC SAID HE HAD NOT KNOWN ABOUT EXPO '74 UNTIL THAT AFTERNOON. AMBASSADOR COMMENTED THAT HE HAD ON OCTOBER 24 TAKEN THE LIBERTY OF WRITING A PERSONAL LETTER TO SIR ALEC OUTLINING THE BACKGROUND OF UK

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5885
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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CONSIDERATION OF SPOKANE, BUT HE REALIZED THAT SIR ALEC
HAD BEEN GREATLY PREOCCUPIED RECENTLY WITH SUCH PRIORITY
QUESTIONS AS THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS AND THE OIL
SHORTAGE. SIR ALEC ASKED THAT HE BE ALLOWED TO THINK
ABOUT THE QUESTION OF UK PARTICIPATION, ALTHOUGH HE
WARNED THAT HIS ANSWER WOULD PROBABLY BE NEGATIVE BECAUSE
OF SHORTAGE OF BUDGET FUNDS. HE ALSO FELT THAT THE UK
RESPONSE WOULD BE NEGATIVE ESPECIALLY BECAUSE THERE WAS
NO POSSIBILITY OF A EUROPEAN COMMUNITY PAVILION.
ECONCOMMIN COMMENTED THAT UNFORTUNATELY THE IDEA OF
AN EC PAVILION HAD BEEN VETOED BY THE FRENCH, BUT POINTED
OUT THAT THE FRENCH HAD SUBSEQUENTLY DECIDED TO
PARTICIPATE ON A NATIONAL BASIS IN A EUROPEAN PAVILION
MADE UP OF NATIONAL EXHIBITS. COMMISSIONER GENERAL
HENDERSON SAID THAT IN HIS OPINION IDEA OF AN EC
PAVILION WAS DEFINITELY DEAD, BUT THAT FRANCE AND
GERMANY WOULD DEFINITELY BE IN THE EUROPEAN PAVILION,
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WITH BELGIUM, THE NETHERLANDS, SPAIN AND AUSTRIA
PROBABLE. CERTAINLY, WE WOULD FEEL THAT A EUROPEAN
PAVILION WAS INCOMPLETE WITHOUT UK PARTICIPATION.

4. COMMENT: WE HAVE BROUGHT QUESTION OF SPOKANE EXPO
'74 TO HIGHEST LEVEL AT WHICH WE BELIEVE UK GOVERNMENT
WILL CONSIDER THIS QUESTION. FOREIGN SECRETARY HAS
PROMISED AMBASSADOR THAT HE WILL THINK ABOUT QUESTION,
ALTHOUGH HE THINKS ANSWER WILL BE NO. WE BELIEVE THIS
PERSONAL DISCUSSION IS THE ONLY WAY WE CAN POSSIBLY GET
HMG TO REVERSE NEGATIVE DECISION TWICE TAKEN BY CABINET.

ANNENBERG

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